

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 through 24 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 5 through 24 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

**35 U.S.C. § 112 Claim Rejections**

Claims 1 through 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Applicants have amended the claimed invention as suggested by the Examiner for the presently claimed invention to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention to comply with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Therefore, presently amended claims 1 through 4 are allowable under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

**Objection to the Drawings**

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a).

Applicants have deleted the subject matter from presently amended independent claim 1 to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.83(a).

**35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejections**

Obviousness Rejection Based on Corbett et al. (U.S. Patent 4,899,107) in view of Elder et al. (U.S. Patent 5,123,850) and Stopper (U.S. Patent 4,467,400)

Claims 1 through 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Corbett et al. (U.S. Patent 4,899,107) in view of Elder et al. (U.S. Patent 5,123,850) and Stopper (U.S. Patent 4,467,400).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Applicants further submit that to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under

35 U.S.C. § 103 three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the cited prior art reference must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Furthermore, the suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on Applicants' disclosure.

After carefully considering the cited prior art, the rejections, and the Examiner's comments, Applicants have amended the claimed invention to clearly distinguish over the cited prior art.

With respect to the rejections of claims 1 through 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Corbett in view of Elder and in further view of Stopper, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art in any combination thereof to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 regarding the presently claimed invention of presently amended independent claim 1 because the any combination of the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest all the claim limitations of the presently claimed invention.

Turning to the cited prior art, Corbett teaches a two-part apparatus for the burning-in of die. See Abstract. One of the parts is a plate with recesses to hold the die undergoing the burn-in process. Figs 1-3. The other part includes "probe tips" which fit in the cavities over top of the dice. Figs 4-6.

However, if the part of Corbett's apparatus bearing cavities is considered to be Applicants' second plate, Corbett fails to teach the use of a "placing the wafer, in a desired orientation, between the first plate and the second rigid plate with the plurality of contact elements on the second rigid plate engaging corresponding locations on the wafer" and "biasing the plurality of contact elements of the second rigid plate against a surface of the wafer by applying an elastic force to an opposing surface to the surface of the wafer with the first plate, the force caused by the biasing mechanism, and the force applied to substantially the entirety of the opposing surface" because neither part has both cavities and contacts (the only contacts are on the probe part which has no wafer-receiving cavities). Corbett also fails to teach or suggest

“biasing the plurality of contact elements of the second rigid plate against a surface of the wafer by applying an elastic force to an opposing surface to the surface of the wafer with the first plate, the force caused by the biasing mechanism, and the force applied to substantially the entirety of the opposing surface” because Corbett fails to teach or suggest that the probe part include a biasing mechanism. Alternatively, if the probe part of Corbett’s teachings is considered to be the Applicants’ second plate, the element involving the use of a “the second rigid plate receiving the wafer therein” is not taught because Corbett fails to teach the use of a probe part bearing cavities. Instead, the probe part bears projections.

Applicants further assert that neither Elder nor Stopper teach or suggest any such claim limitations.

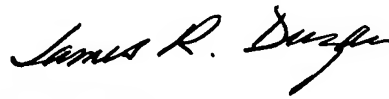
Applicants submit that the cited prior art taken either singly or in any combination in any manner does not teach or suggest the claim limitations of the presently claimed invention of presently amended independent claim 1 to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness regarding the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 through 4 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 1, and thus claims 1 through 4 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicants submit that claims 1 through 4 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicants request the allowance of claims 1 through 4 and the case passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 30, 2005  
JRD/djp:lmh  
Document in ProLaw